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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 5 March 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, comments of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the parts of the report of the Special Rapporteur, Elisabeth Rehn, on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia (E/CN.4/1997/9) and the report on minorities relating to the FRY (E/CN.4/1997/8), and to request you kindly to distribute it to all the members of the Commission, as well as to circulate it as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 10.

(Signed) Miroslav MILOŠEVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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C O M M E N T S
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

on the parts of the report of the Special Rapporteur Elisabeth Rehn on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia (E/CN.4/1997/99) and the report on minorities relating to the FRY (E/CN.4/1997/8)

Introduction

At its 455 session, held on 24 February 1997, the Federal Government has reviewed two reports of the Special Rapporteur Elisabeth Rehn - on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia and on minorities, pertaining to the FR of Yugoslavia, and adopted the following Comments:

I The report on the former Yugoslavia (paras 94-138)

A. LEGAL GUARANTEES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(para 100) With respect to the remark that there is discrepancy in the human rights provisions contained in the Federal Constitution and the Constitutions of the Republics, the Government points out that there are no essential differences among the three constitutions and that the Constitution of the FRY has to be applied throughout the entire territory of Yugoslavia.

B. SECURITY OF THE PERSON

(para 101) In this respect, the Government of the FRY points out that preparations are under way for a draft Law on Criminal Procedure, soon to be submitted to the Federal Assembly for review and adoption, which will eliminate certain discrepancies of the present law vis-a-vis the Constitution of the FR of Yugoslavia in the part related to the determination of the duration of detention.

It should be noted that the above abuses and circumventions of the law do not stem from legal provisions, but that, if committed, they constitute severe violations and breaches of legal authority and, as such, are subject to sanctioning.

D. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE MEDIA

(para 105) The information system in the Republic of Serbia has been enriched, despite the overall decline of the living standards, by an increasing number of dailies, diverse radio and TV stations with different political affiliations. Owing to private and foreign investments, new dailies with high circulation and market-orientation, such as: Svet, Svedok and older ones: Vreme, NIN, Telegraf, Intervju, Profil, have acquired wide readership. In addition to a different image and approach, new dailies attract the readers by extremely low prices (1 Dinar) - at least twice lower than the actual price of traditional papers in Serbia. The price of newspapers in the Republic of Serbia, like in all market economies, is a market category depending primarily on the costs of production and the purchasing power of the consumer. The fact that the price of daily papers is relatively high compared to the average

wage, is primarily due to the overall economic situation in the country, greatly aggravated by the United Nations sanctions. However, the total circulation of daily papers is over 1,500,000 copies per day, which challenges the allegation from the Report that "few can afford to buy these publications". Even the information concerning the price of the daily papers is not correct, because the price of some newspapers, including those with high circulation, is two or three times lower than quoted in the Report.

In view of the radio and TV broadcasting coverage, it is true that the Radio Television of Serbia covers by its programmes the biggest part of Serbia. But it is also true that RTV "Politika" covers 70 per cent of the territory and TV BK over 50 per cent. The latter two, together with RTS and a number of new ones, broadcast daily news originating from different sources of information.

(para 106) Without delving into the impartiality of the Beta news agency research on the contents of the Radio Television of Serbia public enterprise news broadcasts, one is under an impression that the fact that the Radio Television of Serbia is a public enterprise established under the law by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, thereby under the obligation to inform on the Assembly and on the Government of the Republic of Serbia activities, is being overlooked in the Report.

(para 107) In accordance with the Law on Election of Federal Deputies to the Council of Citizens of the Federal Assembly (Article 51), the organizations that broadcast Radio and TV Programmes whose founders are the Federation, i.e. the republics, are obliged to provide equal coverage to all parties that intend to take part in the elections.

The Agreement which was signed by most of the political parties and organizations, envisaged not only coverage in news broadcasts (1.5-2 minutes) but also special, one hour and a half broadcasts for independent representation of the parties, which all the parties have benefited.

In addition, RTV organizations ensured special coverage within commercial programmes, in which election lists holders had the possibility to promote their election programmes and candidates under equal conditions, according to the prevailing price-lists of the RTV organizations.

The representatives of the "Zajedno" opposition coalition have refused to sign an agreement on equal coverage in the media, even though the agreement in question is the same one signed by the opposition parties in 1992, but nevertheless benefited the programmes aimed at representing their parties.

The status of the Studio B TV has been resolved on the basis of the Agreement signed with the RT of Serbia, and the objections contained in the report concerning this local radio station are no longer valid.

(para 109) The claims concerning the Beta news agency indicate a one-sided approach. The fact is that the journalists of this agency are accredited with the Federal Secretariat for Information. They are regularly invited to attend the press conferences of the Federal Government as well as all other activities of the Prime Minister and the members of the Government, along with other journalists. The journalists from Beta have been among those accompanying the Federal Prime Minister, for example to Bulgaria in 1993 and to Rumania, Slovakia and Macedonia in 1996.

The newspapers and periodicals in the Republic of Serbia are published under the same conditions. During the sanctions imposed by the international community, the paper plant "Matroz" was passing through hard times due to the lack of raw materials and energy and the Government of the Republic of Serbia invested vast efforts with a view to ensuring the production that could allow

for regular printing of the dailies and magazines.

(para 110) The case of the leader of the opposition Democratic Party is not one of restricting "legitimate criticism of government officials" as alleged in the report, since the criticising the Prime Minster of the Republic of Serbia has been freely reported in the media, etc. The heart of the matter is that his allegations were not substantiated, as established by the competent court, pronouncing the sentence accordingly.

E. The situation of refugees

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia categorically rejects as false the allegations that "non-Serb" asylum seekers have been denied entry into Serbia, that they could enter the country only on false documents. The entry into Yugoslavia on false documents was taking place in the cases of "refugees" evading the responsibility for the crimes they had committed in their places of origin.

The allegation contained in the report, whereby the legislation in Serbia and Montenegro subjects registered refugees to military service, is inaccurate. As a matter of fact, under the federal law, only the Yugoslav citizens are subject to military service, which totally contravenes the allegations in the report.

(para 113) The authorities of Montenegro cannot be blamed for unregistered refugees. It is a private matter of one's assessment and decision whether to register as a refugee or not, whereas his decision may be influenced by various propaganda pressures. The Government wishes to point out that the recent census of refugees in the FR of Yugoslavia was well organized, widely covered by the media, with full explanation as to the reasons and purposes of the census. No objections or remarks have been made on the occasion in Montenegro, either by the refugees or by international monitors attending throughout. Ultimately, the adoption of the Law on citizenship, i.e. precise provisions concerning acquiring the FRY citizenship, effectively eliminate any fears that may have arisen with some of the refugees (Article 46 of the Law contains very broadly formulated and clear-cut provisions).

F. The Law on Citizenship

The Government of the FRY has an objection concerning the part of the report pertaining to the recently adopted Law on Citizenship, both concerning the interpretation of statutory provisions, and the speculations on the consequences of the law enforcement.

The allegation that all citizens of the former SFRY except those from Serbia and Montenegro may acquire citizenship at the discretion of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, is inaccurate. Providing that on 27 April 1992 these citizens had permanent residence in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, they are entitled to the Yugoslav citizenship if they so wish, in which case they should submit an application to the competent authorities to be entered in the respective register; if, however, they fail to do so in the period prescribed, it implies their free will not to become Yugoslav citizens. The competent authorities, i.e. the Federal Ministry of the Interior, do not have the competencies to decide on the applications, but it is obliged to enter the citizens of other republics of the former SFRY in a separate Register of the Yugoslav citizens, providing that the applicant offers proof or signs an affidavit that he has no other citizenship.

The Government of the FRY considers as inappropriate the interpretation of the manner and consequences of the application of Article 48 of the Law on Yugoslav citizenship. This statutory provision introduces the act of granting citizenship to the citizens of the former SFRY who, due to their national, religious or political affiliations or due to their advocating respect of human rights and freedoms, had to take refuge in the territory of Yugoslavia.

In such cases, the international law does not provide for a right to a second citizenship, i.e. the right of refugees to obtain citizenship of the country of refuge. On the other hand, universally, admission into citizenship is at the discretion of every single country, on the basis of the principle of sovereignty. Each country determines by its laws the conditions and ways for the admission into citizenship. It is only natural and normal that legitimate interests of the country must be taken into account in that case, at least to the extent the interests of refugees are being taken into account.

The rights of the refugees upon applying for citizenship are protected against mistake of law or its misinterpretation by the competent authorities, since the refugees are free to appeal to the supreme judicial authorities in the country, on two grounds. The refugee dissatisfied with the ruling concerning his application for citizenship, may initiate administrative procedure before the Federal Court. Concurrently with this legal proceedings, an appeal may be lodged with the Federal Constitutional Court for violation of freedoms and rights of man and citizen.

G. The situation of minorities

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia has substantial and formal objections concerning this part of the report in view of its insistence in covering a non-existent administrative unit of the FR of Yugoslavia named Sandjak. In its previous comments to the reports of the Special Rapporteur, the Government of the FRY has already explained in detail this question.

In the report, the so-called Sandjak (and the situation of the Muslims, concentrated in this part of the FRY more than in its other parts) has been erroneously placed in the chapter dealing with minorities. Following the secession of the former Republics, the Muslims in the FRY have not been granted the special status of a minority, nor had they been considered a minority in the former Yugoslavia. On the contrary, subject to the political will of the authorities in the then-Yugoslavia, they had been considered as a nation.

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia wishes to point out that in the period covered by the latest report of Mrs. Rehn, the situation in the Region of Raska or the so-called Sandjak (erroneously called by Mrs. Rehn) has been stable and, on the whole, secure and not in jeopardy.

(para 123) The Government and all other authorities in the Republic of Montenegro including those of the Ministry of the Interior, undertook numerous measures with a view to improving the situation in the area around Bukovica (municipality of Pljevlja). As a result, the situation has drastically changed - with some citizens returning to their homes, whereas preparations are under way for the return of other citizens that left. The situation has considerably improved and one can anticipate with reason that, very soon, it will be resolved in the way expected by the population of the Muslim religious background who left their homes in 1992/93, and settled in Pljevlja.

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia wishes to point out that one of the perpetrators in the Strpci abduction case has been recently located and

arrested. An intensive and continuous investigation of the Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro, fraught with dangers and risks, has thus been successfully brought to an end. Two more perpetrators have been identified and it is now expected that international APBs be issued for their arrest.

II The report on the minorities (paras 17-100)

A. Introduction

It should be noted that the special report of Ms. Elisabeth Rehn also contains certain erroneous and inadequate formulations, opinions and positions. For example, by using the term "Kosovo", the Special Rapporteur, despite our repeated objections, continues to ignore the constitutional name of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

The Government of the FRY has similar objection concerning the alleged status of minority for the members of the Muslim community in the Region of Raska, the so-called Sandjak, as well as for the members of the Croat community in Montenegro.

C. The situation in Kosovo and Metohija

From the historical point of view, it is completely inaccurate and therefore inadmissible and detrimental to allege that "the roots of the present problems may be found mainly in a series of events which occurred from 1989 to 1991" (para 31). The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia has demonstrated its readiness to make available for the Special Rapporteur all relevant information, in writing or otherwise, in case she wished to acquire more profound and comprehensive understanding of the historical aspects of the subject-matter she was dealing with. On this occasion, we would like to recall that the parts of the Albanian minority and their leadership, following the Second World War, supported and constantly encouraged by Albania, have made attempts to forcibly secede from Yugoslavia and unite the Province with Albania. Such attempts were made in 1968, 1971 and 1980, when armed rebellions, aimed at secession, resulted in the loss of human life, material damage and particularly in large-scale exodus of the Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo and Metohija; in attacks on the citizens and their property, rape, desecration of their graves, destruction of harvest and other physical and psychological pressures.

We wish to point out that as far as Kosovo and Metohija is concerned, the problem is not the alleged violation of human and minority rights, but an open, continued and aggressive insistence of a part of the Albanian minority towards secession and independence. They have been encouraged and supported by Albania which disguises its true goals by propaganda ploys - even at the UN fora - regarding the alleged violations of human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija. Thus, the conclusions of the report on Kosovo and Metohija should have referred to organized terrorist and propaganda activities carried out by ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia, as well as in neighbouring Albania, explicitly condemning in particular the attacks on officers of the Ministry of the Interior, the assassinations and murders of ethnic Albanians who do not agree with the separatist policies. Ethnic Albanians should have been called upon to take more active and massive part in the life of the

country, to end boycotting, to cease ignoring the existence and activities of the institutions within the FRY system, the political and other activities within this system. It would be mutually beneficial if Mrs. Rehn's contacts and activities were redirected towards that goal instead of her exclusively pointing a finger at the official authorities to improve their performance. Short of active participation of the Albanian minority in all forms of the country's activities and of a major role the Special Rapporteur might have in this respect, the political leaders of ethnic Albanians or individual members of this minority in Kosovo and Metohija can hardly be expected to change their positions.

1.Law Enforcement and Security of the Person

(Para 42) Following the inspection of the records in the District Court of Pristina for 1991-1996, it was established that there is no person under the name of Ukshin Hoti. More details on the locus of incident are required. The allegations in the report that this individual was arrested on political grounds would not have resulted in a 5-year prison sentence unless he had committed a crime pursuant to the Penal Code of the FR of Yugoslavia and the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia.

2. Education and Culture

The claim that a number of schools attended by ethnic Albanian children have been closed is inaccurate, because the said schools have continued with their activities, with new ones being opened. But, the curricula taught at these schools has not been approved or confirmed by the education authorities of the Republic of Serbia.

The Police (State organs) have not interfered with the work of the schools.

3. Health and Child Care

Contrary to the claims contained in the report, the parents of ethnic Albanian children seek assistance from the official institutions and doctors regardless of their nationality. As an illustration, the share of ethnic Albanian patients in the state health-care institutions of Kosovo and Metohija in 1995 was between 80 and 95 per cent. As Mrs. Rehn was apprised and able to see for herself when visiting the medical institutions in Kosovo and Metohija, subject to their wishes and professional skills, a large number of doctors and medical staff are ethnic Albanians. Their share in the state health-care system is over 45 per cent. In addition, parents are free to choose a doctor at the State hospitals or private ones. Of the total of 333 private practices (general practitioners, dentists, consultants), 299 are run by ethnic Albanians. Out of 162 pharmacies, 129 are privately owned by ethnic Albanians. In addition to private practice, ethnic Albanians are free to choose to be treated in State hospitals and out-patients units and to obtain medicaments totally free of charge in State pharmacies if they find private doctors' prices too high.

The allegation of the Special Rapporteur that a low immunization rate of Albanian infants is due to the distrust towards the doctors and medical staff is neither accurate nor fair towards the official institutions of the FR of

Yugoslavia, because the teams that carry out vaccinations are made up exclusively of ethnic Albanians. More probably, it is the doing of the political propaganda claims that all vaccines have harmful effects, in hand with the low level of health education and cultural background.

As for newborn babies abandoned by their mothers, that problem is not more pronounced in Kosovo and Metohija than in other parts of the FR of Yugoslavia. The crux of the problem is the high birth rate of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, i.e. 2.6 per cent (one of the highest in Europe), which is incongruous with the Province's economic development. High birth rates stem from inadequate education and traditional views of the population, adversely affecting their material status and causing other problems in social and other fields.

4. The Media

The allegation that "Bujku" is "formally under the State publishing house Panorama" is entirely false. Panorama provides the printing and distributing services for the daily, based of market prices. If the Board of Editors of Bujku consider that the price of the services is high, they are free to look for another business partner (there are dozens of printing houses run by the State or private ones, whose owners are mostly ethnic Albanians).

The security forces have not interfered in the activities of the "Koha", nor is there an order "to have its contents first approved by the police".

It should be noted that 35 papers and magazines are freely published in Albanian in Kosovo and Metohija, without any state interference whatsoever. As far as the State is concerned, they are completely independent.

D.Vojvodina

It is most surprising that so much space has been accorded to the position of minorities in Vojvodina, since the minorities there (according to them and to the reports of various institutions dealing with this problem), freely exercise all the rights and freedoms provided under the Constitutions of the FRY and the Republic of Serbia. The members of national minorities participate actively, on a footing of equality, in the political, economic and social life of the country, as repeatedly confirmed at meetings with foreign delegations, as well as in the statements pronounced by the officials from neighbouring countries.

1.Refugee Settlement in Vojvodina

On the eve and throughout the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was exposed to a high influx of refugees from the territories of the former Yugoslav republics. They were primarily the Serbs from Croatia who fled in the face of new institutionalized discrimination in Croatia, and later on, in the wake of an open military aggression, in the face of the terror and genocide of the Croatian regime. An immense influx of Serb refugees was recorded also from former Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as from the ranks of the former JNA, whose officers were dispossessed and deprived of their rights in the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

In addition to the Serb refugees, the FRY admitted a large number of

Muslims from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as members of other ethnic groups from the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Although the refugees have been settled throughout the FRY, primarily in the territories where they had relatives or friends able to help them, a large number of them was also accommodated in Vojvodina where, already, UNHCR collection centres had been prepared or where refugees had relatives and friends expelled in recent or past ethnic cleansing of the Serbs in Croatia in the Second World War by the then-fascist Ustashe regime in Croatia.

The fears of some Vojvodina minorities that the refugees might substantially affect the ethnic composition of the population of different ethnic origin is not legitimate, since such composition is per se a volatile category. Thus, the municipalities with predominantly minority population, most often have admitted the lowest number of refugees, who have mostly been admitted by the collective facilities.

2. and 3. Ethnic Hungarian and Croat Communities

Among ethnic Hungarians, the situation in the information field in their mother-tongue is satisfactory. There is one daily in the Hungarian language published in the Republic of Serbia, along with 13 papers and magazines with different circulation and subject-matters, while 10 papers and magazines are published in both the Serbian and Hungarian languages. Radio Television of Serbia broadcasts a 24-hour radio programme and a 2-hour TV programme in Hungarian. The programme in Hungarian is broadcast by 13 communal and regional radio stations.

The Law on the Official Use of Language and Alphabet, inter alia, provides for the right of municipalities in which minorities live, to regulate in their statutes the official use of language and alphabet of a national minority. In the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the languages of national minorities - Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian and Ruthenian, are in the official use, parallel to Serbian.

Out of 45 municipalities, 37 municipalities statutorily regulate the official use of language and alphabet of national minorities. Thus, in the municipality of Bela Crkva, the Czech language is also official.

In addition to statutory regulations pertaining to the language and alphabets of national minorities to be in official use, the municipalities provide for human and other resources indispensable for exercising rights of minorities (for proceedings with the authorities of the local self-government).

The national structure of employees in municipal bodies approximately corresponds to the national composition of the population in municipalities. There are no grounds for making references to discrimination against the members of national minorities in employment, since their education, performance, etc., are also taken into account. Out of the total of 4,488 employees, 64 per cent are Serbs, 4.86 per cent Montenegrins, 14.80 per cent Hungarians, 2 per cent Rumanians, 3.68 per cent Croats, 0.40 Bunjevacs, 0.71 per cent Ruthenians, 0.26 per cent Ukrainians, 0.76 per cent Macedonians and 5.59 per cent others.

3. The Croat Community

The allegation that "no Croatian newspapers or magazines are published locally, and media from Croatia have not been available in Serbia since the

beginning of the conflict", is erroneous. The Croats in Vojvodina are incomparably better informed than the Serbs who have remained in Croatia. In the Republic of Serbia, four newspapers are published in Croatian, one magazine is issued both in Serbian and Croatian.

The Government of the FRY wishes to point out that the Democratic Alliance of the Vojvodina Croats (DSHV) has founded a bi-monthly paper "The Voice of the Plains" which was entered in the media register in 1991, its head office being in Subotica.

The following Croat organizations have been set up, preserved and smoothly operating in Vojvodina: Croatian Cultural and Educational Association "Matija Gubec" its head office in Tavankut, the commune of Subotica; Cultural Association "Jovanka Gabosac" in Martinci, the commune of Sremska Mitrovica; Croatian Culture-Educational Society "Vladimir Nazor", with its head office in Sombor; Cultural and Arts Society "Silvije Strahimir Kranjcevic" in Backi Breg, the commune of Sombor and Cultural Society "Backi Monostor" where is its head office also, the commune of Sombor.

There is a political organization "Democratic Alliance of the Vojvodina Croats". The basis for membership is national background.

E. Situation in the Raska Region

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia has objections to this part of the report for the same reasons given concerning Chapter G of the Report on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia, particularly concerning erroneously labelling the Muslim community as a minority.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to point out that the reports issued by the competent authorities do not confirm the allegations contained in Mrs. Rehn's report. No cases of abuse by the army and police have been recorded in the territory of the Novi Pazar and Tutin communes, nor have there been cases of severe human rights abuses by the Yugoslav authorities or Bosnia Serb paramilitary troops.

Our assessment is that in the Raska Region, i.e. the municipalities of Novi Pazar and Tutin, peace and security have prevailed for all the citizens there, that they all enjoy equal human rights regardless of their nationality, religion or any other affiliation. That particularly refers to the treatment they were accorded in the vital spheres such as health-care, education, social care and child care.

No case has been recorded of abusing anyone, including the members of the Muslim community.

In the past eighteen months not a single person has been brought to any police station.

The complaints of the Raska Muslims pertaining to the alleged biased contents of the school curricula are unfounded. All the more so, since pre-school institutions, elementary and secondary schools are attended by both the children of Serbian and Muslim families. The schools in the region are attended by all the children, regardless of their ethnic origin; they all live and work together, they share one and the same language, the only difference between them being their religion. Elementary education encompasses also all the children from Muslim families.

The Muslims in the municipalities of Novi Pazar and Tutin have taken part in this year's federal and local elections (for deputies to the Council of the Citizens in the Federal Assembly and deputies to municipal assemblies). They

voted for their election lists - parties and elected their deputies.

In the municipalities of Novi Pazar and Tutin jurisdictional posts are mostly filled by the Muslims (90 per cent).

III General Remarks and Suggestions

Even though the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, ever since the appointment of Mrs. Rehn as Special Rapporteur, has endeavoured to respond to all her requests - concerning the opening of her office in Belgrade, the number and duration of her visits to the country, a free choice of the regions and towns she was about to visit, her interlocutors in competent federal and republican departments; her absolute freedom to choose and organize meetings with any individuals, organization or party or non-governmental organization, separate from the official segment of her visits and talks - the Government of the FR of Yugoslavia is not fully satisfied with the reports of Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, since identical errors and inaccuracies persist, some of them pointed to in these Comments.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is expecting that these Reports contain more objective coverage of the situation of human rignts in the FR of Yugoslavia, particularly concerning Kosovo and Metohija, that they condemn the acts of terrorism, while plainly pointing to the need that the ethnic Albanians and their political representatives and leaders take part in the political and social life of the country, as well as to stop boycotting the political and cultural co-existence in the Province.

The reports produced to date furnish, inter alia, an excuse for those who act against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, to politicize the problems of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the FRY, which is unacceptable.

The FR of Yugoslavia wishes to reiterate its willingness to cooperate with Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, the Special Rapporteur, but it expects her to honour the above objections mentioned already on previous occasions, with such cooperation evolving on the basis of an objective approach by the Special Rapporteur and on the basis of mutual respect.